

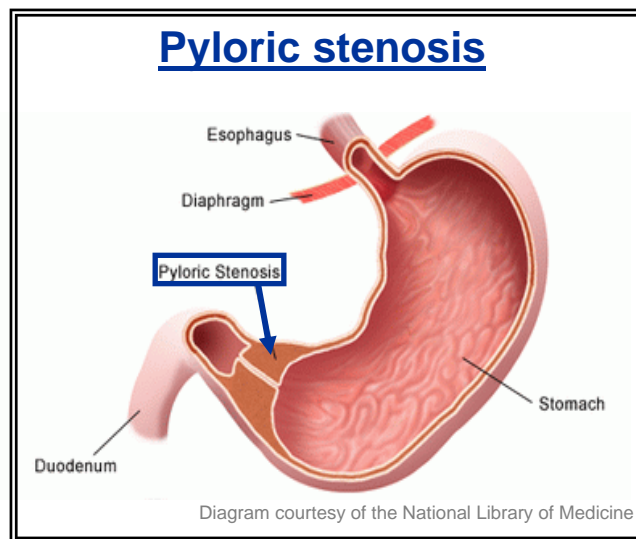
Pyloric Stenosis

What is pyloric stenosis?

Pyloric stenosis is a problem that most often affects babies between 2 and 8 weeks of age and causes forceful vomiting that can lead to dehydration. It is the second most common birth defect requiring surgery in newborns.

The lower portion of the stomach, which connects to the small intestine, is known as the **pylorus**. In pyloric stenosis, the muscles in this part of the stomach enlarge, making the opening of the pylorus smaller and eventually preventing food from moving out of the stomach into the intestine.

As the pylorus is blocked, the baby starts vomiting. When a baby vomits frequently, he or she cannot keep enough fluids in his or her body to meet his or her nutritional needs; this is called **dehydration**. As the baby vomits, he or she **loses minerals** (such as potassium and sodium) that are necessary to stay healthy. The third problem that occurs with frequent vomiting is **weight loss**.



What causes pyloric stenosis?

Pyloric stenosis (PS) is considered a "**multifactorial trait**," which means that many factors (including genetic and environmental factors) contribute to the development of pyloric stenosis. Not every factor involved in the development of pyloric stenosis has been identified to date. Approximately 3 out of every 1,000 babies born each year have pyloric stenosis.

How is pyloric stenosis treated?

Surgery is usually required in order to correct pyloric stenosis. Before surgery, your baby may also be given extra water and minerals to supplement the fluids that were lost during vomiting.

For more information

KidsHealth.org - http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/medical/digestive/pyloric_stenosis.html

MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000970.htm>

Source: Children's Hospital of Central California -

<http://www.childrenscentralcal.org/content.asp?id=1604&parent=1&groupid=G0055>